

# North Yorkshire County Council

## Pension Fund Committee

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Death Benefit – Mrs R

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with information relating to the death of Mrs R on 20 January 2020 in order that a decision can be made as to the beneficiary of the death grant now payable.

It is an administering authority discretion under the regulations to decide to whom death grants are paid. The following wording is taken from the 'Administering Authority Discretions for NYCC' document:

*"In assessing who should receive any death grant, the administering authority will make reasonable efforts to identify potential beneficiaries and to gather relevant information. Potential beneficiaries can be a member's nominees, personal representatives, relatives or dependants.*

*The administering authority will take into account all information that it receives in making a decision, but most importance will be attached to the member's nomination where one exists. The administering authority will however not always follow the nomination. In particular (but without limitation), the administering authority may decide to award the death grant to someone else where the member's circumstances have materially changed after the nomination was made, or where there are other factors which (in the view of the administering authority) indicate that this would not be appropriate.*

*Where necessary, cases will be referred to the Pension Fund Committee for a decision."*

It is standard practice for the NYPF to pay death benefits in accordance with the Nomination Form completed by the member however we are unable to do this as the named beneficiary is deceased.

#### 2.0 Background

- Mrs R was a pensioner member of the NYPF and died on 20 January 2020.
- We were notified via our mortality screening in February and having been tracing next of kin since.
- The member was widowed at the time of her death.
- The member nominated her daughter to receive 100% of the death grant. The date of the nomination was 26 July 2011; however, NYPF has found an Obituary notice confirming the nominee died on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- The member did not update her nomination following the death of her daughter.
- A family information form was completed by the son, included as **Appendix 1**, who stated the member had no children.
- Close relatives have been listed on the family information form as sister; deceased and a gentleman but no relationship was given or contact information provided.
- The funeral directors have confirmed that the son we are dealing with has paid the funeral costs of £2,450.
- The obituary for the daughter states that she had 2 brothers however the son we have been dealing with has confirmed verbally that he has no contact information for other members of the family.
- The daughter's obituary also states she had 2 children, the deceased's grandchildren.
- At this stage we do not know the full name of the other son or the grandchildren and do not have any contact details for them.
- The death grant due is approximately £3,500.00.

### **3.0 Action**

3.1. Members are asked to confirm to whom the death grant should be paid. This could be a single or multiple beneficiaries or to the Estate.

Gary Fielding  
Treasurer of North Yorkshire Pension Fund  
NYCC  
County Hall  
Northallerton

19 November 2021